Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENNA 02070 081436Z

51
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

SCI-06 FEA-02 INT-08 AID-20 AF-10 DRC-01 (ISO) W
---------- 043486
R 081330Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1899
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USINT DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 2070

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR'S UPCOMING VISIT
TO MIDDLE EAST

REF: VIENNA 2048

1. I SPOKE TO CHANCELLOR KREISKY MORNING MARCH 7
ABOUT UPCOMING "FACT-FINDING MISSION" OF THE
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (SI) WHICH HE WILL LEAD TO
MIDDLE EAST (EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN AND ISRAEL)
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 02070 081436Z

MARCH 9-16.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

2. KREISKY REVIEWED HIS EARLIER UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS WITHIN THE SI TO HAVE ORGANIZATION ESTABLISH INITIAL CONTACTS WITH ARAB SOCIALISTS AND LOBBYING HE HAD DONE ON BEHALF OF HAVING MIDDLE EAST SITUATION INCLUDED INCSCE TALKS. HE SAID HIS GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN THIS REGARD HAS BEEN THAT MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS SHOULD NOT BE LEFT SOLELY TO SUPER POWERS AND THAT EUROPE HAS APPROPRIATE RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THAT PART OF WORLD.

3. KREISKY STATED SI "FACT-FINDING MISSION" WOULD HAVE THREE OBJECTIVES: (1) DETERMINE WHETHER REAL BASIS EXISTS FOR ESTABLISHING PERMANENT PEACE IN AREA; (2) EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES WITH MIDDLE EAST ARAB COUNTRIES; AND (3) ESTABLISH POLITICAL CONTACTS BETWEEN SI AND ARAB POLITICAL PARTIES AND GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE SOCIALIST TENDENCIES. SI SHOULD NOT ESCHEW CONTACTS AND WORKING RELATION-SHIPS WITH ARABS SIMPLY BECAUSE ARAB POLITICAL SCENE DOES NOT CONTAIN FULL PANOPLY OF FREEDOMS AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. IN ABSENCE OF LATTER, SI RELATIONSIP WITH ARABS COULD BE LESS FORMAL, MORE INDIVIDUALIZED, AND NOT INVOLVING FULL-FLEDGED SI AFFILIATION.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, KREISKY INDICATED THAT ISRAEL (NOT INCLUDED IN ORIGINAL ITINERARY) HAD BEEN ADDED AS STOP IN TOUR IN WAKE OF ISRAELI SHIFT FROM INTRASIGENCE TO SOME FLEXIBILITY IN ITS POLICY TOWARD ARABS. (COMMENT: HE DID NOT MENTION FACT THAT OTHER SI MEMBERS AND AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS PERSUADED HIM THAT ISRAEL AS ONLY SI MEMBER IN ME MUST BE INCLUDED ON ITINERARY (SEE VIENNA 2048)).

5. KREISKY SAID SI DELEGATION PLANS TO TELL ARAB LEADERS THAT ARAB OIL POLICY HAS TURNED CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 VIENNA 02070 081436Z

OUT TO BE DISASTER. IN THIS CONTEXT, KREISKY NOTED THAT GOA HAD BEEN PREPARED TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY ITS AID TO LDCS IN 1974 BUT THAT SHARP INCREASE IN COST OF OIL TO AUSTRIA WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO MAINTAIN THIS COMMITMENT.

6. I NOTED THAT USG WAS FACED WITH SIMILAR

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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PROBLEM AND WE TOO WERE CONCERNED ABOUT MAJOR IMPACT OIL DEVELOPMENTS WOULD HAVE ON EFFORTS OF LDCS TO IMPROVE THEIR ECONOMIC WELL BEING. OIL EMBARGO AND HIGHER OIL PRICES HAVE HAD, IN ADDITION, DIVISIVE IMPACT ON WESTERN EUROPEAN SCENE AND IN US EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS EUROPE, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS EEC AND NATO AND THAT WORSENING OIL PRICE SITUATION CAN ULTIMATELY PROVE HIGHLY DETRIMENTAL TO ARAB INTERESTS ALSO.

7. CHANCELLOR CONCLUDED CONVERSATION WITH EXPRESSION OF ADMIRATION FOR SECRETARY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST AND OF HIS BEST WISHES FOR SECRETARY'S CONTINUED SUCCESS THERE. HE ADDED THAT VISIT TO AUSTRIA BY SECRETARY WOULD ALWAYS BE WELCOMED BUT THAT HE COULD WELL UNDERSTAND SECRETARY'S EXTREMELY BUSY SCHEDULE MAKES SUCH VISIT DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE.HUMES

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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